PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Nov. 3, 1992

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Norman Schwarzkopf. Though the attempt continued into the last week before the election.

Protracted efforts by the Bush campaign have failed to get a presidential endorsement from Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. Though the attempt continued into the last week before the election.

But despite repeated pleas, the general insisted that it would be a breach of the military code to make a political endorsement even though he is on retired status. That attitude should kill lingering hopes among Florida Republicans for a Schwarzkopf political career.

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Transition trouble: The Government Services Office gave a flat "no" when Gov. Bill Clinton's transition team asked to enter the GSA-run building designated for the transition team of the president-elect after Nov. 3.

Jan Piercy, a college classmate and close friend of Hillary Clinton, is on the transition team headed by campaign chairman Mickey Kantor. She telephoned GSA officials last week to make arrangements to inspect the transition offices.

Not a chance, she was told. That space was reserved for "the president-elect," not for a candidate, and would remain locked up until Nov. 4. Piercy's superiors in Little Rock did not press the matter. "That really is more appropriate for after the elec-

Upbeat Jim: For the first time since President brought him back as White House chief of sta almost invisible James A. Baker III is changi tune, confiding to one Bush intimate: "You kn could win this thing."

That is a far cry from what the taciturn steeped in pessimism and denying his own cent in the re-election campaign, had been saying pr for the past two months. Working around Bush plaint that "I'm not a good attack dog," B toughest task was to teach Bush how to expl "character" issue against Gov. Bill Clinton w invective or exaggeration.

Baker sees the third debate as the crucial p change in Bush's campaign and attributes h proved position mainly to the now well-honed on Clinton's trustworthiness.

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Texas GOP blues: The ineptly run Bush camp Texas astounded the president's Washington managers by failing to buy time on Spanish-la radio stations for commercials that were rea airing.

Blame for the oversight is placed on the head Victory '92 organization in Texas: Rob Mosbach of the former commerce secretary and nomin lieutenant governor in 1990. Jim Francis, a hig garded Dallas-based political operative, has over much of the campaign from Mosbacher but

JOSEPH SOBRAN

Neither party challenges governmen

It's hazardous to predict anything with the presidential race suddenly tightening in the final days, but given this year's options, look for a record number of nervous breakdowns in the voting booths.

As some anonymous wag has put it: "If God had intended us to vote, he would have given us candidates." Instead, he has saddled us with monstrous party organizations that dwarf individuals. Lots of organization men compete to be the figureheads of those parties, and in the end we get synthetic men hoarsely shouting slogans they don't believe in themselves.

This campaign has been bedeviled by a sense that the two major candidates have just been going through the motions, enacting old rituals unsupported by vital belief. For months each has been trying to make his opponent sound scary, when most of us regard both of them with the same dull dread. Either way, the prospect is four years of dispiriting boredom — not because we want to be entertained, but because we would like to be ruled by someone who deserves the attention of intelligent citizens, and these two just don't.

Sensing this, both candidates have promised "change." The truth is that we have already endured too much change. Enough with change. We want something different.

The "change" we have undergone is government that never leaves us alone, and just keeps expanding ad infinitum, with ever more powers and ever fewer principles. More such "change" isn't change. And the political debate, such as it is, is always over how many more things government should do — with no frank acknowledgment that it can't do anything for A without doing something to B. Reducing the scope of government is not on the menu.

Once upon a time it was widely assumed that the chief job of government was to nab the occasional criminal. The law-abiding citizen had little to fear from it, and you could be law-abiding simply by behaving decently.

But government, by expanding its functions beyond a reasonable minimum, has become something citizens can set on each other, like a mean dog. One pressure group's "civil rights," "health care" or "tection" — terms changing their mea — become everyon regulations, taxes deal.

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A government way, with no man Constitution or t only tenuous legit when corruption flagrant that eve those who make th any rules.

The result is counterfeit author is something we h something we bel money is no longe ble commodity (lik antee value, most